

THOSE THE CITY CARES FOR**The Cost of Keeping the Thousands of Paupers, Invalids, and Prisoners.**

A neatly-dressed, bright-eyed, sprightly young woman stood in the line of applicants at the desk of Wm. Blake, Superintendent of Outdoor Poor, at the Eleventh Street Office of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction yesterday. A Sun reporter saw her and said: "Surely that woman is not asking relief from the city?"

"Oh, no," replied the Superintendent, "yet she is one of my regular customers."

"How? Does she want a pass to see some of the inmates on the island, or is her husband in jail, or does she want to be admitted to the hospital?"

"No, her husband is a sober, industrious man earning good wages, and she is in excellent health, and has been ever since she began coming here two years ago."

"Well, what does she want, then?"

"She comes here every week to get the allowance that her husband leaves for her."

"Have you many cases of that kind?"

"About a hundred on the average. The list is constantly changing."

"How do they get here?"

"Generally from the police courts. They quarrel and agree to part for various reasons. The Police Justices arrange with the husbands that the money shall be paid over in this way. If the man has a good situation and does not care to run away he is satisfied to pay in this way. The parties never meet here, as each knows the time the other will come. I had one case where they came for ten years and did not meet. Then I got them together, and they are living together now, but that was a rare case. Generally each complains of the bad temper of the other. The man says: 'She is a vixen and I cannot live with her.' The woman says: 'He is a drunkard and dissipates and will not provide for his family. In some cases they are not married.'

There are about 500 applications a day at the office, and the number increases during the months of November and December. 8,000 tons of coal are given to poor people after investigation as to their worthiness. The investigations are conducted by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but there is said to be a need for regular police officers to handle the work. Many attempts to get admission to the institutions are made by paupers from other cities, and these are turned back. Applications are sent to their own counties for relief. Foreigners who have not been in the country five years are sent to the care of the Commissioners of Charities, while others are committed to the city for the care of such persons.

About how many persons are supported in the institutions under the care of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction? "I acquired a Sun reporter of Commissioned H. H. Porter."

Between 10,000 and 11,000. The actual cost of the care of the poor is \$600,000 a year.

633: Charity Hospital, 380; Penitentiary,

932; Almshouse, 1,262; Insurable Hospital,

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